



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

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USAID Launches Five-Year, Humanitarian Assistance Program in Central Burma

On September 26, 2011, the United States Agency for International Development's Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA) launched "*Shae Thot: The Way Forward*", a new, five-year program to provide humanitarian assistance to communities in central Burma.

Pact, a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., will implement the program on behalf of USAID, building on fourteen years of experience working in Burma in the sectors of health, income-generation, micro-finance, livelihoods support, and disaster management. *Shae Thot* will provide resources and technical assistance to increase community-based knowledge and strengthen the innate capacities of local communities, encouraging community participation and sustainable solutions in the areas of maternal and child health; livelihoods; food security; and water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Through U. S. Government funding, *Shae Thot* brings together a unique partnership of experienced organizations with more than 40 collective years implementing assistance programs in Burma. Implementing partners include: Marie Stopes International, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Cooperazione e Sviluppo (Cooperation and Development, CESVI), UN-HABITAT, and Myanmar Survey Research (MSR). Together these organizations will work to address pressing humanitarian needs in approximately 3,100 or more villages in Rangoon Division, the Dry Zone and Southern Shan State.

For more information, please contact the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon at (95-1) 536-509 or visit the Embassy's website at burma.usembassy.gov.

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